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46. The soluble polymer granules of claim 44, comprising less than 25% by weight of the at least one admixing component.

47. The soluble polymer granules of claim 36, comprising 75% to 90% by weight of the one or more soluble polymers.

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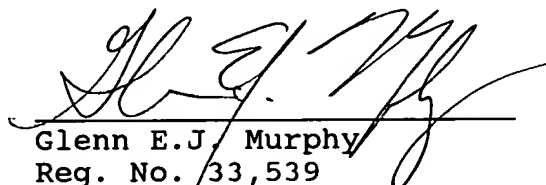
REMARKS

Claims 1 to 16 have been canceled and claims 17 to 47 added. The subject matter of the new claims is described in the specification in the claims as originally filed. The specification has been amended to include a cross- reference to related applications and headings appropriate to U.S. practice. No new matter has been added.

The new claims better claim the full literal and equivalent scope and breadth of subject matter disclosed in the application, notwithstanding applicants' belief that the original claims, drafted for examination in the German Patent Office, would have been allowable but for minor matters of form, such as multiple dependency, multiple preferred embodiments in a single claim, and transitional phrases permitted in German practice but objected to in the U.S.P.T.O. The new claims find support in the application independent of the original claims and therefore are not believed to constitute narrowing amendments to the original claims within the holding of Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., No. 95-1066 (Fed. Cir. Nov. 29, 2000).

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment and examination of the application. If any fees are due to enter this paper that have not been accounted for, please charge Deposit Account No. 01-1250.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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